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RELEASED IN FULL

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CIAE-00
	SJK-01	C-01	DODE-00	DS-00	EB-01	HA-09	H-01
	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	OCS-06	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-01	SP-01
	SSC-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	DTC-01

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-----OAE54A 040943Z /38

O 040941Z FEB 92 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7990
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM NIACT IMMEDIATE
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
ARA COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 01099

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, MASS, ASEC, CASC, PREL, VE
SUBJECT: ATTEMPTED COUP, MESSAGE NO 4, 0530, 2/4/92

REF: CARACAS 01096 AND PREVIOUS, NOTAL

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT

2. PRESIDENT PEREZ SPOKE ON CHANNEL 4 TELEVISION AT
0420. APPEARING CALM AND IN CONTROL, AGAINST THE
BACKGROUND OF THE VENEZUELAN FLAG, PEREZ SAID:

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-- A GROUP OF MILITARY TRIED TO STAGE A COUP AND
"ASSASSINATE ME", BUT LOYAL ARMED FORCES HAVE REPELLED
THEM.

-- DENOUNCED THE "AMBITIOUS" AUTHORS OF THIS CRIME.

-- MANY LATIN LEADERS HAVE CALLED TO EXPRESS SOLIDARITY
(MENEM, FUJIMORI, GAVIRIA, SALINAS), AS HAVE MITTERAND AND
FELIPE GONZALEZ.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
DATE/CASE ID: 21 JUL 2006 200503206

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-- CAP EXPRESSED PARTICULARLY WARM THANKS FOR PRESIDENT BUSH'S CALL OF SUPPORT.

-- VENEZUELA SPEAKS WITH ONE VOICE.

-- THERE ARE NO POLITICS ON THIS MATTER. (NAMED THE MANY DOMESTIC LEADERS WHO HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT, SEE REFTELS.)

-- "IN A FEW MINUTES", WOULD BE RETURNING TO MIRAFLORES PALACE (FROM THE TV STATION).

-- (DIRECTLY TO THE ARMED FORCES, OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS) YOUR COMMANDER IN CHIEF IS SPEAKING. LOYALTY IS TO ME, TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONSTITUTION, TO YOUR OATH. ANY OFFICER WHO SAYS DIFFERENTLY SHOULD BE DISREGARDED.

COMMENT: A TOUGH, HARD-HITTING SPEECH, BUT ONE THAT INDICATES (READING BETWEEN THE LINES) THAT THE THREAT IS NOT YET OVER.

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(CAP FOLLOWED UP AT 0500 WITH A RADIO ADDRESS, COVERING THE SAME POINTS IN VIRTUALLY THE SAME WORDS, BUT ADDING AN APPEAL TO THE GENERAL POPULATION FOR CALM AND SERENITY.)

3. UPDATE ON THE MISSING AMCITS: CONGEN SPOKE 0445 TO A MEMBER OF THE ZULOAGA FAMILY, WHO SAID THAT HIS SON IS STILL MISSING, ALONG WITH THE TWO AMCITS (REFTELS). HE ADDED THAT, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM ALBERTO MACHADO (MEMBER OF A DISTINGUISHED BUSINESS FAMILY), THERE IS REBEL ACTION IN MARACAIBO, CUIDAD BOLIVAR, AND SAN JUAN DE LOS MOROS (WHERE A TANK BATTALION HAS REBELLED). SEPARATELY, MINISTER OF EDUCATION ROOSEN REPORTEDLY INFORMED SR. ZULOAGA THAT HOSPITALS HAVE REPORTED NO CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

4. MARACAIBO: CONSULATE MARACAIBO REPORTED 0445 AFTER TALKING TO GEN. LARAS (COMMANDER OF ARMY IN ZULIA STATE), QUOTING LARAS AS SAYING: "WE HAVE AN IRREGULAR SITUATION. WE HAVE A GROUP OF REBELS IN CONTROL OF SOME PARTS OF THE ARMY IN ZULIA." GEN. LARAS ADDED TO AMCONSUL THAT THE FOLLOWING ARE UNDER REBEL CONTROL: THE CUARTEL DEL LIBERTADOR, NATIONAL GUARD HQ, STATE POLICE HQ, AND THE AIRPORT. AMCONSUL COMMENTED TO EMBASSY THAT LARAS' ATTITUDE APPEARED AMBIVALENT AND PERHAPS "LOYAL, SITTING

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ON THE FENCE."

5. ACCORDING TO OTHER INFORMATION REACHING THE EMBASSY AT 0500, ZULIA GOVERNOR OSWALDO ALVAREZ PAZ HAS BEEN DETAINED BY REBEL FORCES, AS HAS CARLOS TABLANTE, GOVERNOR OF ARAGUA STATE.

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6. ACCORDING TO A SEPARATE REPORT, THE GENERAL STAFF OF REGIONAL COMMAND 5 OF THE NATIONAL GUARD HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY "RED BERET" ARMY PERSONNEL. THIS APPARENTLY MEANS TROOPS FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THESE ARE LOYAL TROOPS SUPPRESSING REBELS, OR REBELS THEMSELVES.

7. ACCORDING TO AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT, ARMORED VEHICLES FROM VALENCIA UNDER CONTROL OF REBEL OFFICERS, WHO USURPED THE UNIT FROM ITS COMMANDERS, ARE ON THEIR WAY TOWARD CARACAS.

8. UNITED AIRLINES VENEZUELA REP TOLD EMBOFF AT 0530 THAT AUTHORITIES AT THE CARACAS (MAIQUETIA) INTERNATIONAL

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AIRPORT HAVE CLOSED THE AIRPORT AND SENT AIRPORT PERSONNEL
HOME. SKOL

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